



03-04-03

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Docket No.: 3927-4133US2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Hearing, et al. Group Art Unit: 1635
Serial No. : 09/530,935 Examiner: WHITEMAN, B.
Filed : September 29, 2000
For : SELECTIVE REGULATION OF ADENOVIRUS PRODUCTION

RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111**RECEIVED**

MAR 10 2003

Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is submitted in response to the final office action dated October 3, 2002 for the above-identified patent application. It is respectfully requested that the amendments and remarks herein be considered at the time of examination of the instant patent application.

In addition, a Petition for an Extension of Time (2 month) pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) and the required fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.17(b) are filed herewith to extend the time for response until March 3, 2003.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 10-29, with the following:

The present invention relates to adenovirus vectors containing a minimum packaging signal for producing adenovirus virions. Of special importance is the presence of a CG dinucleotide located downstream of a TTTG sequence within each of the packaging elements. Spacing between the consensus segment 5'-TTTG-3' and the 5'-CG-3' segment located downstream is preferably between 1 and 12 nucleotides. Alternatively, it may be preferred to configure the consensus segments so that these elements appear on the same surface of the DNA helix. Most preferably, the adenovirus vector of the present invention may contain a packaging element consisting of 5'-TTTGN₈CG-3' (SEQ ID NO:1) which represents a minimal sequence